

DEC 01 1993

Confirmation of Verbal Authorization for the Chase Interiors  
Site, Falconer, Chautauqua County, New York

Bonita L. Green, On-Scene Coordinator  
Response and Prevention Branch

George Pavlou, Acting Director  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

Richard C. Salkie, Associate Director for  
Removal and Emergency Preparedness Programs

I. PURPOSE

This memorandum is written to confirm the verbal approval given by George Pavlou, Acting Director for the Emergency and Remedial Response Division on November 30, 1993, for Bonita L. Green to use her \$50,000 On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) authority. The \$50,000 project ceiling is to initiate site security and stabilization. From the project ceiling, \$40,000 will be for mitigation contracting.

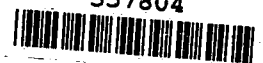
On May 21, 1993, Mr. Michael J. O'Toole, Jr., Director of the Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation of the State of New York Department of Environmental Conservation requested that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) undertake a removal action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended by, 42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq, at the Chase Interiors site. Site Assessments conducted on September 13-15 & 27, 1993, confirmed that this site poses a significant threat to public health and the environment and meets the criteria for a removal action site.

II. BACKGROUND

A. Site Description

Chase Interiors, Inc., was a manufacturer of store display fixtures. The site is predominantly developed with a 150,000 - 200,000 square foot multi-story building. During the assessments it was noted that most of the drums and containers are stored in three major storage areas with many other containers scattered throughout the building. The storage areas were found to be overcrowded. One storage area contained hundreds of five gallon pails stacked four high and secured with duct tape.

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The local police have informed EPA that the site has a history of breakins with doors and windows remaining unsecured. There is a fence wall surrounding the property, however there are several openings in it. There is no ventilation or sprinkler system in the building and the electrical power has been disconnected.

#### B. Quantities and Types of Known Hazardous Materials

An inventory conducted during the site assessments revealed that 71 fifty five gallon drums, 537 five gallon pails, 3 seven gallon pails, 32 four cubic yard boxes and 2 cylinders are stored on the site.

The types of compounds on-site consisted of lacquers, paints, solvents, etching thinners and caustics. Present in these compounds are chemicals such as butyl acetate, sodium hydroxide and xylene. Many of these materials were field tested and were found to possess RCRA Characteristics for flammability and corrosivity. A small transformer in the furnace room was observed to be leaking. Field testing of the leaking oil indicated the presence of PCBs.

#### C. Threat of Public Exposure

The primary threat posed by the abandoned drums and containers is that of exposure through direct human contact. A threat of fire, explosion or vapor exposure, caused by the reaction of the hazardous substances on-site also exists, which could occur as a result of their improper storage.

At least several hundred people reside in the neighborhood directly adjacent to the site. The site is unsecured and access is possible through several entrances or from a first floor window.

### III. PROPOSED ACTIONS

#### A. Proposed Actions

EPA will establish 24 hour site security. Immediate actions to secure the site will be to place locks on outdoor entrances and on doors leading to container storage areas. A formal action memorandum will be prepared to stabilize, sample and dispose of the hazardous substances present on-site.

### IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

Conditions at the Chase Interiors site meet the criteria for a removal action consistent with 40 CFR 300.415(b) of the National Oil and Hazardous substances Contingency Plan.

cc: S. Murphy, OPM-FAM